

Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a nonwoven for the manufacture of filter rods in the tobacco industry, comprising:

introducing fibers with a finite length to at least one separating device, said fibers being introduced in ~~the~~ a parallel direction of a longitudinal axis of the at least one separating device;

separating the fibers of at least one type of filter material into individualized fibers in the at least one separating device; said at least one separating device having at least one separating element rotating about a rotational axis where the at least one rotating separating element tears the fibers apart and accelerates the separated, individualized fibers; and

feeding the separated, individualized fibers to a conveyor moving in a conveying direction such that the separated fibers form the nonwoven wherein a rotational axis of the at least one separating device is oriented essentially parallel to the conveying direction of the conveyor.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one separating device is two separate separating devices and the separating step includes separating fibers of at least two types of filter material, with one type of filter material being separated in each separating device.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 3, further comprising combining the two types of separated fibers prior to the feeding step.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a nonwoven for the production of filter rods in the tobacco industry, comprising:

introducing fibers with a finite length to at least two separating devices, said fibers having at least two types of filter material, said fibers being introduced in ~~the~~ a parallel direction of a longitudinal axis of each of the at least two separating devices;

separating fibers of the at least two types of filter materials in separate separating devices;

combining the separated fibers; and

feeding the separated fibers to a conveyor moving in a conveying direction such that the separated fibers form the nonwoven wherein each separating device comprises one separating element that rotates around a rotational axis oriented essentially parallel to the conveying direction of the conveyor.

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein in the feeding step includes feeding the separated fibers from above the conveyor.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 3, wherein one of the at least two types of filter material is a multi-component fiber.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 3, wherein one of the at least two types of filter material is a bi-component fiber.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising adding at least one of granulate and powder to the separated fibers before the feeding step.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A machine for producing a nonwoven for the production of filter rods in the tobacco industry, comprising:

at least one separating device for separating fibers of at least one type of filter material, wherein the fibers are introduced with a finite length in ~~the~~ a parallel direction of a longitudinal axis of the at least one separating device, and the at least one separating device includes a rotating separating element; and

a conveyor downstream of the at least one separating device for receiving the separated fibers from the at least one separating device wherein the rotating separating element has a rotational axis essentially oriented parallel to the conveying direction of the conveyor.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The machine according to claim 11, wherein the at least one separating device includes at least two separating devices, and said at least two separating devices are arranged above the conveyor.

Claim 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The machine of claim 11, wherein at least two of the separating devices are provided, the at least two separating devices being separate from one another.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The machine according to claim 14, further comprising conveying chutes respectively arranged downstream of each separating device.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The machine of claim 15, wherein the conveying chutes converge with one another to form a chamber upstream of the conveyor.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): An arrangement for producing a nonwoven for the manufacture of filter rods in the tobacco industry, comprising:

- a device for feeding fibers of a finite length and of at least one type of filter material;

- at least two separating devices for respectively separating fibers of at least one type of filter material that the feeding device feeds to the at least two separating devices;

- a conveying chute provided downstream of each separating device, wherein the separating devices have different designs so that each separating device separates fibers of one type; and

- a conveyor downstream of the at least two separating devices such that the separated fibers are provided to the conveyor to form a nonwoven, wherein the at least

two separating devices each comprise at least one separating element having a rotational axis oriented essentially parallel to a conveying direction of the conveyor.

Claim 18. (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The arrangement of claim 17, wherein the conveying chutes converge in downstream direction to form a chamber.

Claim 20 (Original): The arrangement according to claim 17, wherein the at least two separating devices are arranged above the conveyor.